

To  
Doctor Jacob Channellor  
of West Chester  
In the County of Chester  
His Dissertations

Is gratefully Dedicated, as a small but genuine  
tribute of respect, not only for his talents as an  
enlightened and useful Practitioner of  
Medicine. But for the amiable Qualities  
which he possesses as a man, and for the  
many private marks of uninterested Friendship  
and esteem which he has so often con-  
fessed upon his sincere Friend and late Part-  
ner.

The Author

In  
Inaugural Dissertation  
on  
Conception

The subject of this dissertation is a difficult one as the multitude of Physiologist who have labored in this field can best bear witness to the difficulty of this pursuit and the long genius of the illustrious Harvey tho' adequate to a full exposition of the course of the blood fails in vain in the mystic researches of generation. His philosophical writing by experiments when pointed to object confined immortality on his name when contrasted to another reduced him to with contemporary reputation. It is not a view of unfolding this mysterious subject to have chosen it as a fit one for this Diff task but with a view from the few remarks I shall offer some more happy may overcome the prejudices of the mind and solve the difficulty so that can doubt the truth of it and one prevail.

Numerous are the theories that have been advanced on this subject according to Dr. Durlin -  
count a teacher of Bowditch he collected no less than two hundred and sixty two hypotheses on this subject. But I shall content myself with mentioning a few of them as some of them are so ridiculous as to be wholly unworthy of criticism as the much beloved Professor Dr. Chapman justly observed. It is necessary gentlemen that I should be understood (before I go further) that by conception I mean that power by which the rudiments of the fetus is first formed.

The most of them have contended that the semen is thrown into the uterus by injection from the penis which I shall content in reverse the case.

It among those who suppose that the fetus is formed exclusively by the female, and that it only wants the stimulus of the male semen to excite it into greater action I may mention Harvey Hutton Spalanzani and Bonnet I shall particularly speak of Spalanzani as he appears to be its chief supporter he proved what he thought to sufficient to satisfy the mind of the Physiologist that the fetus was formed

or that it existed in miniatice in the before impregnation and that the male was only of use to stimulate the little being greater action for he infers from their own is use they have life and motion but in very languid manner from the slow motion of the fluid.

I think his opinion confounded or various doctrine as there increasing in number infer that they have life or motion themselves. But it only proves that nature endowed those animals that is there are that have their eggs impregnated after they are discharged from their bodies as Dr Newt which he experimented upon the peculiarity of increasing their eggs about time of their being discharged from the body of all their eggs had been of that in their maturity. It certainly would have of great inconvenience to them from the various use and life would have been burthen rather than a pleasure to them. But he says it is in a very languid way from the slow motion of fluids.

I think from these words (slow motion of the fluids) he must have seen all the animal functions going on in a regular manner only in a slower grade of action. But gentleman he mentions in another place that they were in the centre of two concentric membranes the moment when poised discharged a fluid as limpid as water only which is sufficient proof that he never saw any motion of the fluids.

But if his opinion is correct the European and African copulating together their offspring must either be the colour of the one or the other which we know is not the case for their offspring is a Mulatto.

Lichenee the Lp and the Mare producing a Mule there can show that it does not exist in miniature in the ovaries before impregnation.

Dr. Leidenbach having discovered animalcula in the male semen he raised a new theory which is that the male semen being emitted from the penis into the cavity of the uterus it from thence passed into the fallopian tubes and by those tubes upon the ovaries there a general engagement takes place in which all are slain save only one who master of the field of battle finds the triumph of his

6 History within the womb that has been  
pared for him & being now pregnant a  
this little animal is squeezed from its  
through the exit of the womb and so  
forth is secreted by the fonticula which con-  
ducts it into the tube and by this tube into the  
This theory however ingenious I think  
Dr Smellie is attended with a circumstance  
into inexplicable namely - the manner in which  
animalcula gain admission into the womb  
But if animalcula exist as he pretends  
discovered with a rounded head a tapering  
tail and moving with rapidity (which  
nothing more than those animalcula to  
seen in other fluids of the body) nature  
have been very profuse in her exertion  
to produce so many creatures for no purpose  
to decay

2d The seed never penetrates the cavity of  
uterus let alone the follicular tubes to  
penis has a considerable erectile power  
evident by the force with which the w<sup>o</sup>  
discharged but in the act of coition &  
loses most of its erectile power from the  
way with which it is grasped by the w<sup>o</sup>

wholly suspended we see likewise in the tenacity and weight of the semen that it cannot be ejected to any distance and likewise the muscles may become impelled in their operation as well as structures in the womb. There is however a barrier in the vagina constricting to the same end namely the rectum or its inner surface but let us suppose for a moment that it was coated as far as the os uteri how could it enter the uterus for in the virgin uterus it is not much larger than the womb and is not in an axis with the vagina either inclining to one side or the other or backwards therefore he must be a marksman that could hit so small an object if he knew which way it inclined unless we agree with Plato who compared this organ to an animal living within another animal controlling all the actions of the living economy, drawing to set itself with the liquor of the male and digesting it to form a new individual but this is not all the os uteri is filled up with a thick gelatinous matter for the most part capable of considerable resistance where it is wanting as is generally the case in the

virgin uterus the hand unyielding lips  
of time & nearly closed. Nor are there the  
benevolence to the passage of the seed for in  
unimpregnated uterus the canal in the neck  
of the uterus will scarcely admit a com-  
mune probe besides it is full of rugae &  
hills along its whole length and between  
these are glands secreting a mucus ob-  
staculated for the purpose of addition-  
tion this might be considered as sufficient  
without mentioning their malconform-  
ity of the part and the experiment of Dr.  
which shall be mentioned hereafter

3<sup>d</sup> M. D. Buffon raised a new theory who  
that the male seed female furnish is  
what is necessary for impregnation. The  
seed says he is nothing but an assemblage  
of organic particles extracted from all parts  
of the body of which the form as it were  
many epitomes. Their organic particles  
which he calls living and active because  
their continual motion are so shaped &  
formed that they cannot unite and  
but with the particles sent from  
same part of the other sex.

That is to say that the particles furnished by  
the eye of the man cannot be caught and united  
but by those furnished by the eye of the woman  
and so of other parts

The formation of the sex not being explicable  
by this ingenious theory the author's imagina-  
tion has supplied it, by supposing that the  
sex was formed according to the quantity sent  
from either of them of the male sent the  
greatest quantity it turned out a boy of the  
female a girl

Reason rejects a theory which gives no expla-  
nation of the production of the placenta and  
membranes that cover the fetus. It is more-  
over directly disproved by the good conforma-  
tion of children born of parents who not hap-  
pening to have certain limbs or organs could  
not supply the proper materials for their for-  
mation in the child

I will now mention some malformations in  
the female organs of generation which will -  
prove that the fetus is not formed according  
to either of these opinions

\* 1st Rawiczewski relates a case in his 1690th  
Observes of a woman who conceived and was

1<sup>o</sup> delivered of a child although her head had not been broken in extraction

2<sup>o</sup> Dr Ruyssch has given another case where a woman in labour where her head was so large and presented delivery of the child by head it was distended an incision was cautiously made through it to penetrate another thick membrane further in the womb which being opened the woman was

3<sup>o</sup> Droldamus gives another case nearly similar to the two preceding namely a young woman at Paris who being married could not admit the embrace of her husband for a divorce but as she represented herself to be with child a midwife called in who pronounced her not to be child and said it was as improbable for a woman to labour by threatening at the door as a surgeon being called he agreed with the midwife but others being called they cut a thick membrane it being divided by proper means kept open the womb satisfied and the woman was in due safety delivered of a full grown child.

These cases without mentioning others Dr oldamus gives for the three preceding cases

11. did by different authors is sufficient proof  
to shew that woman who had their vagina  
closed up by the hymen did conceive without  
having it broken by coition therefore could  
not have the male semen gated into the uterus  
according to either of these opinions

I am aware that some Physiologist have  
seen what they took for semen beyond th.  
os time but neither of them could ever  
detect it more than once and Dr Chapman  
very justly remarked that it must have  
been the natural mucus of the part as there  
is much counter evidence against them.

Haighton likewise proved that if one of the  
fertilian tubes of a rabbit was divided and  
she afterwards became impregnated corpora  
lutea were formed in both ovaria (which  
he proved was a sure mark of impregnation  
having preceeded) but no sperm was found  
on the mutilated side either in the tube or  
from of the uterus but there was some found  
on the other side or the uninjured side  
and he likewise proved as De Graaf had  
before him that the ovaria were the seat of  
conception.

12 Now their confinement likewise proves  
conception cannot take place according to  
of their doctrine

Mr Harvey supposed that the semen was  
brought up absorption and carried into the  
lateral and by the spermatic artery to the  
semen to give them greater stimulus as he  
posed them to exist in miniature but if  
was the case it must become perfect by  
force it could enter the circulation as it  
passes through the rectum and lymphatic  
into the circulation and i believe we  
no account of any foreign matter ever  
detected in the lymph we will suppose  
a moment that the semen does enter  
circulation and retains its stimulus  
become perfectly mixed with the blood  
it could enter those small vessels the  
to the ovaries. But according to Prof  
Chapman and others the semen is  
ble in water until it has part of it  
or that gelatinous portion when taken  
the circulation which Spallanzani found  
would not impregnate them but in  
the semiconcrete portion of the semen

at any rate a very small portion could only enter the circulation as the greatest quantity is discharged immediately after coition. But the semen has never been detected in the blood or illustrations Harvey would have some grounds for his theory.

5<sup>th</sup> Herbst adopted a new theory being aware of the difficulty that attended the others he had found there was particular absorbtion destined by nature for this particular task of impregnation viz that the semen is carried from the vagina to the ovaries by a particular set of absorbtion to impregnate one or more eggs. This opinion certainly is not correct as there is nothing similar to this in the human economy that is much more reflex lying dormant for 10 or 15 years without ever being called into action or in fact no action being required of them for the female does not experience that desire for coition until about the time of menstruation when her organs become prepared. Now a person reasoning a priori would suppose that those small reflexes would become null by their sides agglutinating together which I believe would be the case if such a test existed but as yet no such reflex

have been discovered not even where the  
minate at the vessels where we must supp  
them four bundles to have any effect in the  
of maledomation if there is such resul  
men must become changed in its properties  
from passing through such small vessels  
as it professes a considerable degree  
city which according to Hollander is the  
proper position of it to produce impreg  
Then I may conclude that there is no  
useful as he pretends for his fancied t  
6<sup>th</sup> and last that I shall mention is  
of Mr Haughton (which Dr Chapman adopted  
the much beloved professor Dr James of  
them all and looked to something sup  
plied for an explanation) His theory is  
takes place by sympathy in the common  
part which I shall not adopt  
1<sup>st</sup> Because the venus has not sufficient  
power to resist the sympathetic operation  
requires the great exertion of the po  
sed by the afflux of blood to them a  
plethora of excretion together with the  
of the part by the penis or either of  
separately applied.

I infer that this excitement does take place from those cases of sterility depending on debility which being removed by proper remedies the female conceives.

2<sup>d</sup> I infer it and that it is necessary to the operation from the circumstance related by Mr. Cruckshank of the rabbitheepes having their time for coition by lifting up their tail and opening their vagina which is as black as ink from the turgescence of the vessels with blood.

3<sup>d</sup> From those cases of Nymphomania which arise from an inflammation of some part of the organs of generation which being removed the disease is removed.

These circumstances I think sufficiently prove that it does not ~~merely~~ place merely from the stimulus of the womb but requires the aid of the great excitement of the parts caused by the afflux of blood to them by the pleasure of coition together with the friction of the parts or either of them.

Then I may say by the excitement of the parts the womb is able to stimulate

the ravines and by the concert of heat  
or time and cavity of the Utensils and by  
some cause the Oceanian vessels enlarge  
from the first rudiment of the Foster

~~of hair  
and by  
enlarge  
Foster~~

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James <sup>Conception</sup>

Sam'l M. Puckett-

admitted March 16, 1819

~~Admiralitatis~~

~~Admiralitatis~~